



Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants

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Testimony of Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants Submitted to the Public Health Committee Monday, March 29, 2021

SB 1070 An Act Allowing Advanced Practice Registered Nurses and Physician Assistants to Issue Home Health Orders

The Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 1070, An Act Allowing Advanced Practice Registered Nurses and Physician Assistants to Issue Home Health Orders**. ConnAPA Supports this bill and appreciates the inclusion of PAs.

PAs are licensed medical professionals who diagnose, prescribe medication, and manage all aspects of a patient's treatment plan, often as a patient's primary provider. This act enables further continuation of this by allowing easier access for home healthcare for our patients. This will ensure better long term care for our patients and improve outcomes for patients.

This bill also reflects what is occurring at the Federal level. The recent passage of the CARES Act signed by President Biden has permanently authorized PAs and APRNs to order home healthcare services for Medicare patients (in a manner with state law). This bill will help modernize state statute to coincide with the national landscape of healthcare.

Allowing easier access to home healthcare patients will be able to have better treatment in the comfort of a familiar environment, and help prevent unnecessary hospitalizations and lessen the strain on an already overburdened healthcare system here in Connecticut. This was a problem even before the Covid-19 Pandemic, but we see even more reason now to treat patients at their homes and avoid unnecessary office and hospital visits, especially for the most vulnerable populations.

This bill also codifies an executive order signed by Governor Lamont in 2020. As such PAs and APRNs have now been providing such authorization for the greater part of a year.

Working in an Emergency Department in Bridgeport, CT I see first-hand the importance of preventive medicine. Many of the patients I see have ailments that could be managed more successfully with the proper healthcare orders at home. This act will help ensure better outcomes for our patients and further improve the healthcare system of Connecticut.

Thank you,

Mark Turczak MHS, PA-C
President of the Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants